

CLAIMS

1. An electronic program guide system associated with a broadcast receiver in a broadcast system, said electronic program guide system comprising:

5 - receiving means for receiving at least one electronic program guide corresponding to the broadcast system;

- first display generation means for generating display of said electronic program guide in a first display area of a display unit associated with said broadcast receiver;

10 - selecting means for selecting a desired program from said electronic program guide;

- tuning means for controlling a tuner of the associated broadcast receiver to tune to the selected program;

15 - second display generation means for generating display of the selected program in a second display area of said display unit; and

- storage means for storing parameters identifying said selected program; and wherein additional program selections causes tuning and display of the additionally selected programs in the second display area and addition of parameters identifying the additionally selected programs to the storage means.

2. The electronic program guide system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising first input means allowing selection 25 of stored parameters identifying a previously selected program, wherein said selection causes tuning and display of the previously selected program in the second display area of the display unit.

3. The electronic program guide system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising second input means allowing selection of the program currently being displayed in the second display area of the display unit for full screen display.

5 4. The electronic program guide system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising third display generation means for generating display of a list of the programs stored in the storage means in a third display area of the display unit.

10 5. The electronic program guide system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said first input means allows for stepwise sequential selection of the stored parameters.

15 6. The electronic program guide system as claimed in claim 4, further comprising third input means for allowing selection of a program from said list, wherein said selection causes tuning and display of the selected program in the second display area of the display unit.

20 7. The electronic program guide system as claimed in claim 4, further comprising fourth input means for allowing selection from said list of a program currently being displayed in the second display area of the display unit, wherein said selection causes full screen display of the selected program on the display unit.

25 8. The electronic program guide system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising timer means, wherein said timer means is activated upon program selection and causes tuning and display of the selected program in the second display area of the display unit for a predetermined time and renewed tuning and display of the previously selected program in the second display area of the display unit upon elapse of the predetermined time.

9. The electronic program guide system as claimed in claim 8, further comprising fifth input means for allowing selection of the program being displayed in the second display area of the display unit for the predetermined time, 5 wherein said selection causes full screen display of the selected program on the display unit.

10. The electronic program guide system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said electronic program guide system is incorporated in an integrated receiver decoder.

10 11. The electronic program guide system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said electronic program guide system is incorporated in a set-top box.

12. The electronic program guide system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said electronic program guide system is 15 incorporated in a mobile handset.

13. The electronic program guide system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said electronic program guide system is incorporated in a television receiver.

14. The electronic program guide system as claimed in claim 20 1, wherein said electronic program guide system is incorporated in a mobile display appliance.

15. An electronic program guide system associated with a broadcast receiver in a broadcast system, said electronic program guide system comprising:

25 - receiving means for receiving at least one electronic program guide corresponding to the broadcast system;

- first display generation means for generating display of said electronic program guide in a first display area of a display unit associated with said broadcast receiver;

- selecting means for selecting a desired program from said electronic program guide;
- tuning means for controlling a tuner of the associated broadcast receiver to tune to the selected program;

5 - second display generation means for generating display of the selected program in a second display area of said display unit;

- storage means for storing parameters identifying said selected program; and

10 - timer means; wherein an additional program selection causes tuning and display of the additionally selected program in the second display area and wherein said timer means is activated upon additional program selection and causes tuning and display of the additionally selected

15 program in the second display area of the display unit for a predetermined time and renewed tuning and display of the previously selected program in the second display area of the display unit upon elapse of the predetermined time.

16. The electronic program guide system as claimed in claim

20 15, further comprising fifth input means for allowing selection of the program being displayed in the second display area of the display unit for the predetermined time, wherein said selection causes full screen display of the selected program on the display unit.

25 17. The electronic program guide system as claimed in claim 15, wherein said electronic program guide system is incorporated in an integrated receiver decoder.

18. The electronic program guide system as claimed in claim 15, wherein said electronic program guide system is incorporated in a set-top box.

19. The electronic program guide system as claimed in claim 5 15, wherein said electronic program guide system is incorporated in a mobile handset.

20. The electronic program guide system as claimed in claim 15, wherein said electronic program guide system is incorporated in a television receiver.

10 21. The electronic program guide system as claimed in claim 15, wherein said electronic program guide system is incorporated in a mobile display appliance.

22. A method for browsing programs selected for display in a second display area of an electronic program guide system 15 associated with a broadcast receiver comprising the steps of:

- receiving at least one electronic program guide corresponding to a broadcast system;
- generating display of said electronic program guide in a first display area of a display unit associated with said broadcast receiver;
- selecting a desired program from said electronic program guide;
- controlling a tuner of the associated broadcast receiver 25 to tune to the selected program;
- generating display of the selected program in the second display area of said display unit;
- storing parameters identifying said selected program;

- repeating the controlling, generating and storing steps for each subsequently made program selection.

23. A method as claimed in claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

5 - selecting stored parameters identifying a previously selected program;

- controlling a tuner of the associated broadcast receiver to tune to the program identified by the selected parameters;

10 - generating display of the program identified by the selected parameters in the second display area of said display unit.

24. A method as claimed in claim 22, further comprising the step of:

15 - selecting the program currently being displayed in the second display area of the display unit for full screen display.

25. A method as claimed in claim 22, further comprising the step of:

20 - generating display of a list of the programs stored in the storage means in a third display area of the display unit.

26. A method as claimed in claim 23, further comprising the step of:

25 - inputting stepwise sequential selection of the stored parameters.

27. A method as claimed in claim 25, further comprising the steps of:

- selecting a program from said list;
- controlling a tuner of the associated broadcast receiver to tune to the program selected;
- generating display of the program selected in the second display area of said display unit.

5 28. A method as claimed in claim 25, further comprising the steps of:

- selecting from said list a program currently being displayed in the second display area of the display unit;
- 10 - generating full screen display of the selected program on the display unit.

29. A method as claimed in claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

- activating timer means upon program selection;
- 15 - controlling a tuner of the associated broadcast receiver to tune to the selected program for a predetermined time;
- generating display of the selected program in the second display area of said display unit for the predetermined time;
- 20 - controlling the tuner of the associated broadcast receiver to tune to the previously selected program upon elapse of the predetermined time;
- generating display of the previously selected program in the second display area of said display unit upon elapse of 25 the predetermined time.

30. A method as claimed in claim 29, further comprising the steps of:

- selecting the program being displayed in the second display area of the display unit for the predetermined time;

- generating full screen display of the selected program on the display unit.

5 31. A method for browsing programs selected for display in a second display area of an electronic program guide system associated with a broadcast receiver comprising the steps of:

10 - receiving at least one electronic program guide corresponding to a broadcast system;

- generating display of said electronic program guide in a first display area of a display unit associated with said broadcast receiver;

15 - selecting a desired program from said electronic program guide;

- controlling a tuner of the associated broadcast receiver to tune to the selected program;

- generating display of the selected program in the second display area of said display unit;

20 - storing parameters identifying said selected program;

- activating timer means upon additional program selection;

- controlling a tuner of the associated broadcast receiver to tune to the additionally selected program for a predetermined time;

25 - generating display of the additionally selected program in the second display area of said display unit for the predetermined time;

- controlling the tuner of the associated broadcast receiver to tune to the previously selected program upon elapse of the predetermined time;
- generating display of the previously selected program in the second display area of said display unit upon elapse of the predetermined time.

32. A method as claimed in claim 31, further comprising the steps of:

- selecting the program being displayed in the second display area of the display unit for the predetermined time;
- generating full screen display of the selected program on the display unit.

33. A computer program product stored on a computer readable storage medium, comprising computer readable program code means for causing a computer to perform the following steps:

- receiving at least one electronic program guide corresponding to a broadcast system;
- generating display of said electronic program guide in a first display area of a display unit;
- providing for selection of a desired program from said electronic program guide;
- controlling a tuner of an associated broadcast receiver to tune to the selected program;
- generating display of the selected program in the second display area of said display unit;
- storing parameters identifying said selected program;

- providing for selection of an additional program from said electronic program guide;
- repeating the controlling, generating and storing steps for each subsequent program selection;

5 - providing for selection of stored parameters identifying a previously selected program;

- controlling a tuner of the associated broadcast receiver to tune to the program identified by the selected parameters;

10 - generating display of the program identified by the selected parameters in the second display area of said display unit.

34. A computer program product directly loadable into the internal memory of a digital computer comprising software

15 code portions for performing the following steps when said product is run on a computer:

- receiving at least one electronic program guide corresponding to a broadcast system;
- generating display of said electronic program guide in a

20 first display area of a display unit;

- providing for selection of a desired program from said electronic program guide;
- controlling a tuner of an associated broadcast receiver to tune to the selected program;

25 - generating display of the selected program in the second display area of said display unit;

- storing parameters identifying said selected program;

- providing for selection of an additional program from said electronic program guide;
- repeating the controlling, generating and storing steps for each subsequent program selection;

5 - providing for selection of stored parameters identifying a previously selected program;

 - controlling a tuner of the associated broadcast receiver to tune to the program identified by the selected parameters;

10 - generating display of the program identified by the selected parameters in the second display area of said display unit.